

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TPHY, UR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON COOPERATION IN PHYSICS

1. NAS HAS ASKED DEPT TO INFORM EMBASSY THAT DAVID PINES, CHAIRMAN OF NEW NAS BOARD ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AND W. CONYERS HERRING, NAS MEMBER AT BELL LABS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN US-USSR FIFTH JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON ELECTRON THEORY OF CONDENSED MATTER AT MOSCOW AND TBILISI, OCTOBER 10-20.

2. PINES AND HERRING PROPOSE TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN PHYSICS WHICH SURFACED AS ITEM ENTITLED "SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHYSICS" OF JOINT COMMISSION ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN OCTOBER 1972 AND JUNE 1973 MEETINGS BETWEEN KELDYSH AND HANDLER, AND IN JUNE 1974 MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT OVCHINNIKOV AND NAS DELEGATION. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONCERNED PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT INSTITUTE OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS, WHICH PINES HAS PURSUED ACTIVELY FOR MANY YEARS. THIS WAS PROPOSED BY HANDLER IN MOSCOW IN 1973 AND KELDYSH AGREED TO CONSIDER AND RESPOND. AT JUNE 1974 MEETING IN WASHINGTON PINES SOUGHT PROMISED SOVIET COMMENT, AND OVCHINNIKOV'S COLLEAGUE, ACADEMICIAN

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PROKHOROV, REPLIED THAT SOVIET ACADEMY COULD NOT REPLY

DEFINITELY SINCE IT IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS OWN CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS IN USSR, IN WHICH

AMERICANS WOULD DOUBTLESS LATER BE WELCOME. PINES COUNTERED WITH PROPOSAL FOR ASTROPHYSICS WORKSHOP OF SEVERAL WEEKS DURATION NEXT SUMMER AT ASPEN, BUT SOVIET ACADEMY DELEGATION DID NOT RESPOND. PINES AND HERRING WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW, PROBABLY WITH PROKHOROV IF HE IS AVAILABLE AND PERHAPS ALSO OVCHINNIKOV.

3. PINES AND HERRING WILL BE IN MOSCOW OCTOBER 14-19 AND PLAN TO CONTACT EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL.

4. SUGGEST EMBASSY REVIEW WITH THEM RECORD OF SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO ESTABLISH JOINT PHYSICS INSTITUTE AND EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET MOTIVES. SOVIETS WENT ON RECORD IN REPORT OF NOV. 1973 JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AS NOTING "WITH APPROVAL REPORT OF REPS OF US NAS AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USSR ABOUT THEIR INTENTION TO TAKE STEPS TO ORGANIZE JOINT AMERICAN-SOVIET RESEARCH ORGAN ON PROBLEMS OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS" BUT HAVE CONTINUED TO DRAG THEIR FEET SINCE. US SIDE DOES NOT WANT TO PUSH PROJECT INDEFINITELY AND US DRAFT RECORD OF OCT. 24-25 MEETING BEING DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET SECRETARIAT OCT. 10 OMMITS MENTION THIS SUBJECT. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME PINES EFFORTS IN MOSCOW, STEVER MAY RAISE SUBJECT PRIVATELY WITH KIRILLIN. INGERSOLL

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